

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SEABOARD 747 SCHEDULE AND RELATED ITEMS

REF: LONDON 10500

1. DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY NEED TO RESPOND TO UK EMBASSY NOTE SEEKING EARLY CONSULTATIONS ON RATES AND CAPACITY RATIONALIZATION TO URGE THAT SEABOARD'S 747 SCHEDULES BE EXTENDED PAST SEPTEMBER 11. FULL TEXT OF NOTE, WHICH BEING GIVEN TO GORDON-CUMMING AUGUST 21 BY WALDMANN IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS TO THE NOTE NO. 143 DATED AUGUST 14, 1974, FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY, REGARDING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT ON CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS, AND SUGGESTING THE RESUMPTION OF THESE DISCUSSIONS NOT LATER THAN THE LAST WEEK IN AUGUST 1974.

IN VIEW OF THE PROXIMITY OF THE DATE SUGGESTED, AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEAVY SCHEDULE OF UNAVOIDABLE COMMITMENTS NOW IMPOSED

UPON UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVING COMPETENCE IN THIS FIELD, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ASCERTAINED THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE PRESENCE OF THESE OFFICIALS FOR MEETINGS ON THE DATE SUGGESTED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE UNDER REFERENCE.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS INFORMED THAT AIRLINES OF BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE HELD A SERIES OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING RATIONALIZATION OF CAPACITY ON CERTAIN ROUTES BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE RESOLVED MANY OF THE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE WHICH EXISTED. MOREOVER, THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THESE TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO RESUME SHORTLY AND WILL FOCUS ON SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE TO BOSTON AND NEW YORK CITY, AMONG OTHER ITEMS, AS THE TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS REMAINING TO BE SETTLED. THE DEPARTMENT THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT A DECISION AS TO FURTHER INFORMAL TALKS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, AS PROPOSED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE UNDER REFERENCE, BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE FORTHCOMING CARRIER TALKS, AT WHICH TIME IT MIGHT MORE EASILY BE DETERMINED WHAT, IF ANY, GOVERNMENT ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT A NEW ROUND OF INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS REGARDING FARES AND RATES IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 6, 1974. WHILE AGREEING FULLY WITH THE VIEW EXPRESSED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE THAT THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS BOTH OF RATES AND FARES, AND OF CAPACITY RATIONALIZATION, IS ESSENTIAL AND SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITH DISPATCH, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES ALSO THAT THE QUESTION OF RATES AND FARES MIGHT MORE PROFITABLY BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWING THE OUTCOME OF THESE IMMINENT CARRIER TALKS.

THE DEPARTMENT NOTES FURTHER THE REMARKS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE RATIONALIZATION OF CARGO CAPACITY OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTES, AND IN THAT CONTEXT WISHES TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE LICENSE GRANTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY UNITED KINGDOM AUTHORITIES TO SEABOARD WORLD AIRLINES, INC., AND TO THE DATE OF EXPIRATION PRESENTLY STATED IN THAT AUTHORIZATION. THE DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES THAT THE QUESTION OF SEABOARD'S ROUTES, AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO CARGO SERVICES, MAY APPROPRIATELY BE RAISED IN THE TALKS PROPOSED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE RECOMMENDED POSTPONEMENT OF THESE TALKS FOR

SOME ADDITIONAL WEEKS, IT IS HOPED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ABLE NOW TO APPROVE AN EXTENSION OF THE SEABOARD OPERATING AUTHORITY FOR A PERIOD SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TALKS TO RESUME, WITH AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD INCLUDED WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE AIRLINE TO MAKE TIMELY

AND ORDERLY CHANGES IN PLANNING AND SCHEDULE SHOULD ITS ROUTE STRUCTURE REQUIRE CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THE OUT-COME OF THOSE TALKS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WISHES AGAIN TO EMPHASIZE THE VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CORRESPONDING TO THAT EXPRESSED BY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE CONTACT AND THE NEED FOR RAPID RESOLUTION OF ANY AREAS OF DIFFERENCES WHICH MAY REMAIN FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF DIRECT CARRIER-TO-CARRIER DISCUSSIONS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON ON THESE SUBJECTS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS, BOTH HERE AND IN LONDON, AND TO AGREE TO MEET AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE AS MAY BE DEEMED APPROPRIATE IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF THE PENDING CARRIER TALKS.

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